*BULLETIN* FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. VIII February 1, 1940 No. 3

# F I C T I O N

## MUST BOOKS

February 21

Buck, Pearl S. OTHER GODS John Day

Once again, as in *This Proud Heart*, Pearl Buck turns to the American scene, and to a study of a psychological conflict in marriage. Quite frankly, we do not feel that the author is at her best in this type of book; her characters seem two dimensional, her situations artificial, her plots thin-spun. *Other Gods* centers interest on the efforts of Kit Tallant to solve the problem - an insuperable one - of marriage to a cardboard hero. One feels that a story has been superimposed upon an idea, rather than an idea growing out of a story, out of character and situation. However, the novel is no strain on the grey matter and will doubtless sell-and rent. $2.50

SR

February 23

Caldwell, Erskine TROUBLE IN JULY Duell, Sloan & Pearce

Caldwell paints his picture in grotesque symbols. His grim, sardonic humor breaks occasionally through the dark clouds of his horrors; his gift for condensation, for drama, makes his stories etch themselves sharply on the mind and the emotions. This is the story of a lynching, a lynching that proved to have no basis and that resulted in another crime. Into the movement is caught one phase after another of the community, - the sheriff who goes fishing to avoid trouble, the two rival plantation owners who turn the lynching posse into a farce, the political embroglio, the fanatical white woman who stirs them up, the pathetic little darky who takes his white rabbit into hiding with him for company. Race horrors, intimidation, all in all a biting indictment of the lower middle class elements of the Deep South. Not a book for conservatives or for the thin-skinned. But a better book than Caldwell has done for some time. $2.50

SR

March 25

Hobart, Alice Tisdale THEIR OWN COUNTRY Bobbs-Merrill

* The third novel in the panel launched with *Oil for the Lamps of China*. Hester and Stephen Chase are thrust back into the disillusioning business uncertainties of their own country, and the result is one of the best business stories I have read. There's the maelstrom of post-war instabilities, the boom, the crash, the struggle between ambition and pride and a hatred of compromise and expediency, a distrust of his fellow men. An interesting study of a woman's share in adjustment, in sympathy and understanding. The scene shifts from New York to Kansas; from the musical world to the business world. It is a book that gives one pause, and it ends on a note that makes one hope there is more still to come, for the Chases seem real people in a real world. Publishers planning extensive advertising, sales aids (post cards, posters, brochure on the author, etc.) A good selling jacket. Easy to rent - easy to sell. $2.50

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## DARK HORSES OF UNUSUAL MERIT

~~February 15 (doubtful)~~ PP

Struther, Jan — MRS. MINIVER — Harcourt, Brace

** The sort of book about which you can legitimately go "quietly mad" and on your enthusiasm sell many copies. Mrs. Miniver's acute perception, her amusing examination of external things, her happy pursuit of a stray thought, her unexpected turn of phrase, make this a subtler joy than *With Malice Toward Some*. This is the rapier thrust rather than the bludgeon, the lifted eyebrow rather than the mugging, the quiet friendliness rather than the over-hearty slap on the back. Not fiction in the literal sense, for there's no plot, merely a chronological succession of sketches during two years of her life. There are interludes such as the return to London after the holidays, the new car, Christmas, the countryside, Scotland, gas masks, at the dentist's, a trip abroad, - each one effortless, appealing, and delightful for the personal note in the mental ramblings. One enjoys the quality, the characters, the observant freshness brought to bear on trivia. No need to introduce *Mrs. Miniver* as another *Provincial Lady*. She'll soon stand on her own right, as a genial, keen Englishwoman, and will make her own staunch friends. You may gather that we liked it! $2.00

February 22

Fuller, Iola — THE LOON FEATHER — Harcourt, Brace

* I found this the most appealing novel of an Indian that I have read since *Laughing Boy*. The period is the opening up of the fur trading posts on Mackinac Island, where the Indians, the *voyageurs*, the fishermen and the handful of officials, sent there by Astor, live in close proximity. Oneta, the central character, is an Ojibway, daughter of Tecumseh, the chief of the loon tribe. Her mother married a French clerk - and died, still mourning Tecumseh. And the superficial changes that were wrought in Oneta's life were unable to destroy the dominance of her Indian blood. One sees the conflict between the bounds of civilization and the instincts of her race; one senses the conflicts in her emotional life. It is a beautiful picture of the frontier; and a sympathetic study of races at odds. And against this is told a simple and moving love story. The book is the winner of the Hopwood Award. $2.50 SR

March 5

Jones, Nard — SWIFT FLOWS THE RIVER — Dodd, Mead

This is fundamentally a man's book, and the central and dominant figure is the Columbia River, rather than the character of Caleb Paige, whose life was controlled by his overmastering love of the river and his ambition to be a captain behind the wheel of a river boat. Into the story is woven the pattern of the opening up of the wilderness, along the reaches of the river and its tributaries, with the discovery of gold and the building of new towns. And there is, in Caleb's life, a second love, which wrecks his marriage and almost wrecks his career. The pace of the story is secondary to its sweep as an epic of a frontier. Sure of big sales in the Northwest and the West. Publishers backing it to big things. $2.50 SR

*And Here Is a Handful of Good Possibilities*

There's Harry Kroll's THE KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE (Bobbs-Merrill); MacKinlay Kantor's CUBA LIBRE (Coward, McCann), both known names. There's a dark horse in Christine Weston's BE THOU THE BRIDE (Scribner), and a significant book from Eric Knight in THE HAPPY LAND (Harper). Elizabeth Seifert with THUS DOCTOR MALLORY (Dodd, Mead) and Gwen Bristow with THIS SIDE OF GLORY (Crowell) are sure money-makers.

## PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS

February 18

Collis, Maurice SANDA MALA Carrick & Evans

Burma has formed the inspiration for Collis' previous (non-fiction) books. Now, in fiction guise, he tells the story of a young Irish painter who is commissioned to do the portraits of a Burmese nobleman and his family. There are sundry new twists to the plot, but there's the old familiar feel of Anglo-Eastern stories, with British smugness contrasted with the fascination of the natives and their lives- with the complexities of adjustment when a girl returns to the East after an education in England, and so on. Somehow *opera bouffe* in spite of the color and drama of the setting. $2.50

February 24

Deeping, Warwick THE RED SAINT McBride

Cloak and sword Deeping - at his worst. Tells of the Baron's War in England long ago - of a beautiful forest girl - of the silver knight who loves her - of a pack of devils burning, massacring, despoiling women - of the thorny path of true love and the final reunion. Dolorous Deeping. $2.00

February 26

Kroll, Harry Harrison THE KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE Bobbs-Merrill

The author of *I Was A Sharecropper* has written a novel which taps the rich vein of his own backgrounds, psychologically, and sets the story in the period before and during the Civil War. This is in almost no sense a war book, however. The war is simply an instrument of fate at the end. It is instead the story of a youth, bastard son of the owner of a great plantation and of the overseer's wife, a youth whose life was thwarted by the stirring of ambition unlike the rest of his people, as he knew them, and whose love for his master's daughter molded his emotional values. It is a stirring story, a new theme boldly handled. $2.50

Kantor, MacKinlay CUBA LIBRE Coward,McCann

* Blindfolded and hearing this story read, I should guess it to be an early Hemingway. It has that same sense of the tropics that he reveals occasionally, that same cryptic, illusory vein, that sense of seizing bits here, bits there, and fitting them, almost unconsciously, into a pattern as the story progresses. There is none of the directness, the realism of most of Kantor's work. This is almost too oblique, and yet somehow it suits the brief tragedy of the scene in Havana. Longer than *Bugle Ann* or *Valedictory*, but at that not a full length book. It is a moving story, vividly told, "of a Cuban patriot who sacrificed all for his cause $1.50

Colby, Frances Bainbridge THE BLACK WINDS BLOW Harrison Hilton

A likable first novel, by the daughter of Natalie Sedgwick Colby. A young Irish girl marries a Bostonian, and is thrust into a "silver cord" situation, plus the traditions of musty, hypocritical Beacon Hill. It is a thoroughly convincing story, not as intellectualized nor as finished a piece of satire as Marquand's novels, but an intelligent and readable tale. Recommended for sales and rentals. $2.50

~~Early~~ March 25

Horan, Kenneth NIGHT BELL Scribner

Double shift (a new form, a new publisher) - and the result a semi-light novel of a hospital, as seen through the eyes of a doctor's wife. It is one of these border-line books, which might justifiably go into the $2.50 class. Mrs. Horan writes with facility and a knack of implication and undercurrents which raises the book out of the commonplace. The story is that of the hare and the tortoise - in the field of medicine - the older man, who wants to play partners with nature, and the younger man who is inclined to rush every case to the operating table. Distinctly on the distaff side, as to viewpoint, but pleasant reading, and with the glamour the "men in white" impose. $2.00

Weston, Christine BE THOU THE BRIDE March 18 Scribner SR

* A compelling, graphic picture of 40 years in a Maine community, a novel of New England folkways, written with relentless cognizance of human indulgence. The characters are not the contained, puritannical figures expected in this sort of fiction, but hotblooded, with their strengths and their weaknesses. There are two families dominating the story; there's plethora of dramatic incident; there's adultery, arson, unbridled sexuality, warped things - but all presented so quietly that one scarcely realizes them as morbid or unconvincing. There is something inexplicable in the quality of the book. Good reading, but not for the straightlaced. $2.50

March 1

Knight, Eric THE HAPPY LAND Harper

* A moving picture of the making of a ghost town, in a forceful and harrowing picture of a small Yorkshire coal mining community, and of the livelihood of a whole district brought to a standstill when the mine closes down. The story centers on one family and their efforts to find some way to avoid the dole. The story is told in the vernacular; there's great depth of feeling and sincerity in the portrayal of the effect of joblessness, of near starvation, of loss of faith and pride. There is less of the romanticism of *Song On Your Bugles*, but in spirit and tempo it is closest to that. A memorable book, but not a book to read for entertainment. It has been called an English *Grapes of Wrath*: it should get a fine press; but one questions the sales chances here, which from sheer literary merit and significance it deserves. SR $2.50

Banning, Margaret Culkin OUT IN SOCIETY 3/21 Harper

There's quite the modern touch in this change-partners romance, set in an average fairly large town. One couple belongs to the white collar class, the other to the social upper crust; they swap horses in mid-stream, buck the obstacles of inheritance and money and the press, and their own happiness made paramount. Banning can be counted on for good workmanship; this is definitely more intelligent a job and all in all "good gallivanting." Excellent rentals; substantial sales. SR $2.50

March 4

Palmer, Florence Glass SPRING WILL COME AGAIN Bobbs-Merrill

A past Civil War setting, characters in profusion, and a leisurely pace. The land and the cotton are paramount problems, and strife between Negro and white, plus domestic and marital life make this a complex whole, and dissipate the central interest. It is long-detailed-solid reading, betraying a thorough knowledge of the period and its topics, but it lacks the vital spark of life. SR $2.50

March 4

Richmond, Hugh MR. BEAMISH Coward, McCann

Mr. Beamish, proof-reader for a printing plant, lives in a world of books, but a chance conversation with a grim sort of banker, draws him into real life as the catalyst of other people's affairs. There's plenty of literary chitchat to embroider a slightly sentimental tale of human kindness, which has likeable moments and characters. The action is fairly static, most of the plot is carried out by socratic dialog. Illustrated by Don Freeman. $2.50 SR

Malmberg, Bertil AKE AND HIS WORLD 3/18 Farrar & Rinehart

A lyrical, rather exquisite story of a child, in some ways suggesting Walter de la Mare. Little scenes of a small boy's daily life in a Swedish village. How he brings happiness to an old couple, how he suffered for his misdeeds when he was cruel to another lad, how he fell in love with a beautiful lady, his imaginings, his memories, his experiences, all in terms of a five-year old. There's tenderness and simplicity, a sure recapturing of a child's world, but many will find it somewhat precious. Illustrated by Barbara Cooney. Translated by Marguerite Wenner-Gren. $2.00 SR

March 19

Hueston, Ethel UNCLE LANCY FOR PRESIDENT Bobbs-Merrill

Further farcical politics as the Slopshires and their nieces work into a presidential campaign for Uncle Lancy. It's a good idea, but Uncle Lancy says the wrong things to the wrong people, stresses nationalism rather than sectionalism, and wins popularity in his own way. Practical spoofing in a parody of electioneering methods. In the lightweight class, for rentals primarily. $2.00

Seifert, Elizabeth THUS DOCTOR MALLORY Dodd, Mead

* Young Doctor Galahad did well, and this follows through, with rentals still outweighing sales possibilities, but a general average of quality well above the usual men-in-white stuff. There's no prettifying of the obstacles en route, as idealistic Jim Mallory tilts at windmills. He has struggles to get his schooling, he manages to work his way through medical school, he finds that his sister (adopted into the wealthy side of the family in St. Louis) turns up her nose at him and interferes in his love affair. But eventually the tangles are eliminated, and Dr. John does a good job of medicine without compromise. $2.50 SR

March ~~22~~ 20

Bristow, Gwen THIS SIDE OF GLORY Crowell

* Sequel to *The Handsome Road* - perfect "pop", with authentic background, good conflict in ways of life, full bodied characterization, and a thoroughly readable tale. Once again there is the conflict of the "poor whites" versus the genteel, ineffectual aristocrats. This is the story of the marriage of Eleanor Upjohn and Kester Larne, a marriage in which a great love comes into conflict with lack of community of tastes and background. Kester is as typically Southern as Eleanor is typically American, and their marriage almost crashes when Eleanor puts the plantation back on its feet while Kester is playing the war hero. Should be an easy success. $2.50 SR

March ~~22~~ 25

Levin, Meyer CITIZENS Viking

*The Old Bunch* introduced Meyer Levin to a discerning group of readers who saw in him something of the quality of Halper and Farrell and Dos Passos. He deals with live problems of the day, with the people who make the machinery run. Now in a long, powerful, photographic novel of a steel strike in Chicago, one gets a close-up of the ten men most intimately involved. A Jewish doctor is the protagonist; he becomes involved by chance, just at the moment when the workers are quietly picketing, and the police thrust themselves in with gas bombs and gunfire. Issues are deliberately created, the Red menace flaunted, Fascist organizations capitalize on the troubles, factionalism within the labor ranks are indicated. The people are blinded by the very forces that have brought it about, the doctor alone emerges, aware to the full extent of the elements involved. Not an easy book, nor a pleasant one; there is strong language and tough language; the story is overly detailed, over-long. But the issues are vital ones and Levin will catch the imagination of the social minded who can take it. $2.75

SR

March 25

Safford, Henry Barnard TRISTRAM BENT Coward, McCann

Lots of frontier and Indian stuff, with plenty of adventure, humorous and otherwise. Smooth reading historical-adventure-romance, and clean as a hound's tooth. Story of a young Englishman, a Roundhead, sent by Cromwell to spy out the Dutch organization in the New World. His adventures prove his prowess and resourcefulness; he unearths the evils of the patroon system, he befriends some English in the colony, he builds a program for colonization, and he wins his mate. So-so. $2.50

March ~~29~~ 15

SR

Greene, Graham THE LABYRINTHINE WAYS Viking

*Another Mexico* was the plaint of a Catholic touring Mexico and finding little to his taste. *Brighton Rock* was mystery-adventure. Now in this novel, Greene has used his Mexican background (none too savory) for a vitriolic story in the *Rogue Male* genre. His Catholic adherents won't relish his picture of the whisky priest; his liberal readers won't find the red shirt lieutenant of police particularly inspiring a figure, so let's forget motives and backgrounds, and see this as sheer adventure, as the craven, cowardly priest seeks refuge with his stupid, loyal peasants, and flees terrified from the wrath of the law. In the dialog one gets various facets of modern Mexico, and there emerges a somewhat macabre picture of Mexico today. $2.50

April 4

Peery, James Robert GOD RIDES A GALE Harper

*Stark Summer* was an intelligent and sympathetic novel of little people in a small Mississippi town. This second book is more severe, an almost unredeemed picture of the whites who have let go, of the stagnant, defeating life that the quagmire of ignorance, inertia and superstition brings upon these villages. The central character is the local doctor, a stalwart, self-sacrificing man whose futile attempts to help the people have failed and driven him to dope. His son, the woman he loves, the town's easiest make, the Holy Roller preacher - he doesn't spare you much, but there is sympathy in the presentation and less cynicism than in the comparable Faulkner and Caldwell novels. A good job-but not for the conservatives. $2.50

April 9

Williams, Ben Ames, Jr. "MR. SECRETARY" Macmillan

Fiction in the form of an autobiography, as this book is purported to be the journal of Stanton. It's long and sluggardly, with Stanton, smug, opportunistic, self-motivated, not a particularly sympathetic character. His schooling, marriage and the loss of his wife and two children, law practice, and finally Washington where he finally succeeded in edging his way into Lincoln's cabinet as Secretary of War. He admits here his knowledge of the conspiracy to assassinate Lincoln, and his failure to prevent it because of his bitter opposition to the President which dated back many years. A stiff piece of writing, and a tedious one. $2.50

April 12

Greig, Maysie UNMARRIED COUPLE Doubleday, Doran

How a girl, running away from marriage to a gigolo-aristocrat, teams up with a personable young Australian to locate the missing will of his uncle as some villainous cousins have taken over the estate. Girl and boy pose as butler and wife, locate the will, oust the relatives, and engineer two other romances. Only for Grieg gourmands. We're fed up. $2.00

## MYSTERIES, WESTERNS AND THRILLERS

February 20

Cole, G.D.H. & Margaret GREEK TRAGEDY Macmillan

Inspector Wilson, on holiday, has language trouble in investigating the death of a cruise manager of a Greco-Roman tour, but successfully clears all passengers of blame and avoids an international problem. Leisurely build-up to crime, then very solid probing by the slow-moving Coles. $2.00

February 23

Wells, Susan FOOTSTEPS IN THE AIR Simon & Schuster

* Three murders and a crime buried in the past within a hectic two day stay on the California ranch of a wealthy eccentric whose marital ventures led to death- and more death. A Tristan and Isolt pattern as a throw-off, vertiginous pace, and 1940 dialogue with young Tony Ware as the amateur answer-man. $2.00 SR

March 4

Bigelow, John Mason DEATH IS AN EARLY RISER Scribner

New York Bohemiana, when a young sculptress is found murdered in her room. Several young men and women involved, and hard -skinned Inspector Darrow's best gal turns out to be a ladykiller. More local color than mystery. $2.00

Bonnell, James Francis DEATH OVER SUNDAY Scribner

Long Island setting for the murder of a blackmailing Greek, out to break up a marriage and filch a South American emerald mine in which several of the guests have an interest. Nice people, smart patter, but evanescent. $2.00

March 7

Daly, Elizabeth UNEXPECTED NIGHT Farrar & Rinehart

* A handwriting expert summering in Maine gives the local police leads and a working schedule in his involuntary investigation of two done in and two to go. A plot to gain control of a fortune is the basis of the happenings which includes romance, a summer stock company, family ructions, etc. Altogether pleasant time-passer. $2.00

March 11

Derleth, August THE NARRACONG RIDDLE Scribner

Not to be taken too seriously, but amiable mystery with Judge Peck figuring it out when murder is committed in a wealthy Wisconsin home. Family fiesta, with brothers, nieces and nephews, real and phony, gathered together and money once again the cause of the crime. No strain on brain. $2.00

Dyer, George THE PEOPLE ASK DEATH March 25 Scribner

* The Catalyst Club again comes to bat, this time to acquit one of its members of a murder charge. San Francisco is treated to a newspaper persecution of an innocent man fighting against manufactured odds. Plenty to chew on and amusing. $2.00

March 12

Rice, Craig THE CORPSE STEPS OUT Simon & Schuster

* Plenty of drinking, wise cracking, radio technicalities, loose-ish morals and body snatching for a triple killing in Chicago. Malone and Justus of *8 Faces at Three* try to keep scandal out of a radio star's life by obliterating her implication in the murders. Snappily paced, racy yarn but not Grade A problem in sleuthing. $2.00

March 13

Wentworth, Patricia ROLLING STONE Lippincott

Three-in-one reliable combine, adventure, romance, and mystery when free-lance Peter Talbot tracks down a picture-thief ring headed by a woman with many aliases. More footwork than headwork, but easy entertainment. $2.00

March 22

Dean, Robert George MURDER THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS Doubleday, Doran

Three operatives from New York come to guard a midwestern reform-newspaper publisher because of threats received. Two killings, family troubles, and an unconventional trap gets the killer. Tepid sort of crimeyarn, relieved in spots by some amusing byplays. $2.00

March 25

Gill, Tom GENTLEMAN OF THE JUNGLE Putnam

Tropic adventure romance in which young Cloud battles a bad man for a girl's banana plantation in Central America, protects her against sabotage, etc. His exploits are successful as is his love affair. Good synthetic stuff. $2.00

March 27

Foster, Bennett THE OWL HOOT TRAIL Morrow

Mistaken identity pursues orphan Thad and loses him his step-uncle's friendship. Thad is rescued by the bank robber he is supposed to be, is forced to join him and with him learns of the step-uncle's treachery. The bank robber turns to honest men who help Thad claim his inheritance and clear his name. Good Bennett Foster. $2.00

April 8

Randolph, Marion BREATHE NO MORE Henry Holt

Death of a supposed descendant of Napoleon in Connecticut embroils Gaunt, a young publisher, in the unraveling of the crime. He works on the theory of coincidences, saves an innocent boy, and shares all facts with the reader. Double romance plus Napoleonic data make this a nice job of its kind. $2.00

April 12

Hocking, Anne DEADLY IS THE EVIL TONGUE Doubleday, Doran

Grandmother Fitzgerald the central figure of an almost clueless case when the sadistic husband of her favorite granddaughter is killed. The reader gets the answer, but the law doesn't. Likeable, but very lean meat and rather too genteel. $2.00

Knight, Kathleen Moore DEATH CAME DANCING Doubleday, Doran

Panama carnival days and a triangle situation as background for two murders and a jewel robbery. A young journalist and hayseed philosopher-detective fool the local police, and the reader. Romance - good suspense and good atmosphere. $2.00

Whipple, Chandler UNDER THE MESA RIM Doubleday, Doran

Great-open-spacer of Garrison's change of alliance from anti-to-pro settler, in the fight for land domination between ranchers and farmers. Garrison brings peace to the valley and saves the ranch of his girl, whom he wins. Average. $2.00

April 13

Farjeon, Jefferson FRIDAY THE 13TH Bobbs Merrill

Wilson and Wade of Scotland Yard are confronted with the murder of a philandering wife, and trail her vanished husband with bloodhound accuracy. Lonely, shy, he's off on a cycling trip which proves fatal, but helps solve the first murder. Smooth job, but rabbit out of the hat ending unfairs the whole thing. $2.00

*Too Late For Earlier Inclusion*

Published

Ryan, Thomas MEN IN CHAINS Random House

Twelve short stories, from 7000 B.C. to the future, each one intended to present a link in the chain of the "martyrdom of man", All on tragic themes, some historical, some pathological. The handling is flat, hyper-expository, and all of them are hung on a single idea and never go beyond that. Specialized in appeal. $2.50

*Announcing for February 7*

Griswold, Francis THE TIDES OF MALVERN Morrow

A reprint of a book published in 1930 which went through six printings. The success of Griswold's *A Sea Island Lady* warrants your attention on this reissue which will have substantial backing. $2.50

February 15

Hamilton, Harry WATCH US GROW Bobbs Merrill

How the Randall family, came, saw and conquered the Arkansas town of Aleta and its people, despite their dislike, distrust and misunderstanding of Yankees. They are brought there by another family who intend to use them as a catspaw in a fraudulent land scheme, but the Randalls wind up on top. Early century tempest in a teacup, with period details and family problems well blended. $2.00

Welch, Patrick FINAL HOSTING Stokes

A romantic treatment of Ireland's fight for freedom, with a Donn Byrne, Jeffrey Farnol sort of flavor. Spirited Sinn Fein activities the background for the marriage of Dennis, Anglo-Irish, to a beautiful rebel. Their divergent sympathies and ideals, he practical and compromising, she the perfectionist wanting complete freedom for Ireland, bring about a break in their marriage, but they are reunited at the close. $2.50

## REPRINTS - Modern Library

| | |
|---|---|
| Sheean, V. | PERSONAL HISTORY - $ .95 |
| Marquand, John P. | THE LATE GEORGE APLEY - $ .95 |
| Chaucer, G. | TROILUS AND CRESSIDA - $ .95 |
| Twain, Mark | TOM SAWYER and HUCKLEBERRY FINN - $1.25 |
| Whitman, Walt | LEAVES OF GRASS - $1.25 |

## NON-FICTION

*There seem to be no* MUST BOOKS *so we've picked this handful for our best bets.*

~~February 26~~ 3/4

Kozik, Francis THE GREAT DEBUREAU Farrar & Rinehart

* I found this peculiarly fascinating, and I read it as fictionized biography, and only just discovered that the publishers were scheduling it as fiction. So "you pays your money and you takes your choice". I think it would go farther and last longer as biography, perhaps in the E. Barrington tradition, to be sure, but authentic factually, to the spirit and character of the Charlie Chaplin of his time. Great comedian - great tragedian - great mind, it takes all three facets to give the color of this rare personality, who made Pierrot the goal of Paris society, while he was still struggling for a hand to mouth existence in a cheap slum amusement house, grateful merely for the chance to act, provided he could feed himself and his dog on his earnings. It is an absorbing and unique story, dramatically told, with warmth of feeling for the man and his background. A book that should be easy to sell and easy to rent. Have someone on your staff read it, for it may need word of mouth enthusiasm to launch it. $2.75

SR

March 25

Kamal, Ahmad LAND WITHOUT LAUGHTER Scribner SR

* Of Tatar (yes, that's the way he spells it) lineage, the author recounts his experiences in the land of his fathers....and an exciting record he makes of it. He approached Turkestan by way of India and Tibet; he crossed high Himalaya passes at the wrong season with native guides; he finally achieved a meeting with General Ma Hai Jung, warrior lord harrying the Soviet; he is impressed into service with the Tungan army, fighting now with modern equipment, now hand to hand; he took French leave so that he might reach farther horizons, and reached Aksu by truck, where he was jailed as a spy, and it took a hunger strike to convince them he was an American, and only then escaped by a fluke, getting out via Mongolia and China. Primarily his interest is ethnology, and his picture of Tataristan and the various races is highlighted by the remnants of brutality, feudalism and barbarism, carried over into the present. Grim, lusty, exciting, this is a good choice for the masculine reading public.
$3.00

March 21

Ziemer, Patsy TWO THOUSAND AND TEN DAYS OF HITLER Harper SR

* The founder of the American School in Berlin, ex-newspaperman, of Swedish descent, has a twelve year old daughter, most of whose life has been spent in Germany. This is her story of her experience under Hitler, from the last traditional German Christmas before he came into power, to their flight in June, 1939. It is a simple, straightforward, sometimes naive record, with interpolations of the facts behind the seemings contributed by her father. But she manages to bring out the contrasts, - the agreeable, peaceful years of her earlier memories, and the petty persecutions in the school, the growing terrorism and Jewbaiting, the blind adherence to brutality as the Hitler regime mounts to the Munich crisis - and war. Inside pictures of what the American colony experienced, stories of her Jewish schoolmates, of her German friends, of factories, schools, camps she visited, of household problems, and - implicit in all of it, the effect of this on a young girl. The father's contribution gives the factual significance of incidents she experiences, his own experiences and investigations, trips to occupied territory, Nazi propaganda, organization, terror rule and the effect on daily life. Now in America, there's an exuberant sense of relief in all America offers. Patsy gives a good account of herself, without any of the smart alecky aspects of most children's narratives. Thoroughly readable and enlightening.
$2.75

March 7

SR

Hoffman, Ruth and Helen OUR ARABIAN NIGHTS Carrick & Evans

* The twin authors of *We Married an Englishman* continue their adventures in living. They are still in Iraq, they are still collecting pets. They hunt for a house and furnish it; they are in the mob riot when the British consul is murdered, they give parties, they spend a holiday with the Sumer tribe in their summer encampment, at the invitation of Sheikh Fulan, and learn first hand about tribal feuds, camel raids and the life of the harem. And when war is declared in September, they return to "our husband". There's a nice sense of observation keyed to a feeling for the ridiculous, and a sensitivity about being foreigners in a land of bizarre customs. And, without any feeling of staleness, the story recaptures the charm and originality and entertainment of the previous book. So it ought to be easy selling. Illustrated by the authors. The publishers are planning circulars and posters as sales aids for the trade.
$2.75

March ~~14~~ 22

Cohn, David L. THE GOOD OLD DAYS Simon & Schuster

* I found this fascinating entertainment - it is one of those trick books that may go. The Sears Roebuck Catalogue is the push-button which enables Cohn to trace the "moral and cultural zigzag of America..by recalling just what domestic and cultural gadgets we have used in the past fifty years." The Nation's Wishbook is virtually a diary of the times, but far more than that as it chronicles the change in American life, economically, socially and so on. Cohn takes up certain articles and traces them through three decades (1915 to 1935), - music, books, travel, clocks, medicine, tombstones, gardens. *Part II* - for the ladies, anything from typewriters to cosmetics, from underwear to contraceptives. *Part III* - for the men, includes firearms, sportswear, furnishings, tools and agricultural machinery. This may serve as a brief topical indication for a book which is an economic and social barometer, showing how American life has evolved through its needs. Information delightfully dished out. It is the sort of book that should be ideally fitted to the S & S system! The Sinclair Lewis preface may serve as an added impetus to immediate sales. $3.75

*Other Strings to Your Bows*

Don't relegate the new Julian Meade to the garden shelf; lots of people will want BOUQUETS AND BITTERS (Longmans, Green); there's an important and vital biography, MR. PITT by John C. Long (Stokes); and there's an entertaining biography of ARETINO by Thomas Chubb (Reynal & Hitchcock). See below for reports.

## PROBLEMATICAL BOOKS - *Non-fiction*

~~February 15~~ 3/21

Washburne, Carleton A LIVING PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION John Day

This is more than a record of the Winnetka Plan. To be sure, most of the illustrations and case histories are, quite naturally, drawn from Winnetka. But the book is an important milestone in the progress of modern education, a survey of what is being done, what has been done and where it is getting us. Every alert parent concerned in methods of public education will find it challenging and stimulating. All teachers, not yet quite sure of progressive methods in education, will see that there is a middle ground. I found it easy reading and informative. $4.00

Cohen, Helen Louise MILESTONES OF THE DRAMA Harcourt, Brace

Seven plays between 500 BC and 1920, have beeen chosen for this volume:- *Oedipus, Everyman, Dr. Faustus, The School for Scandal, A Doll's House, Cyrano de Bergerac* and *The Emperor Jones*, from Sophocles to O'Neill. High spot biographical sketch, theatric and dramatic history and an analysis of the play and its contribution introduces each selection. The plays are footnoted and there is a chapter on the reading and a bibliography. Reference book for schools and libraries. $2.50

Anderson, G.K. & Walton, Eda Lou THIS GENERATION Simon & Schuster

The text book edition of this excellent anthology is published by Scott, Foresman. Material published between 1914 and the present, and signifying a forward trend - this is the basis of selection. I.- Carrying on the Tradition; II.- The War and the Waste Lands; III.- Chorus for Survival-each section including extracts from writers illustrating the points indicated in introductory critical essays. Useful for reading group study, for library reference shelves, etc. $4.00

February 18

Allen, Florence E. THIS CONSTITUTION OF OURS Putnam

Judge Allen has written, out of her long experience and knowledge of what is needed, an excellent book which every citizen should have on his shelf where he can refer to it in these times when freedom of speech, press and religion is under fire. The book includes a reprint of the Constitution, but the body of the book takes up the Constitution point by point, emphasizing and clarifying. Specific examples of modern day legislation are given to show how the Constitution and its principles are affecting legislation. It is straightforward, direct and lucid- though not designed for an evening's entertainment. The five main headings under which the subjects are grouped give a key to the approach: - An Instrument of Freedom, Separation of Powers, The Constitution and the War Power, The Constitutional Civil Liberties, Effect of Democracy under the Constitution. This should be a book of permanent value. $2.00

~~February 21~~ March 20.

Bolitho, Hector ROUMANIA UNDER KING CAROL Longmans, Green

This is an excellent example of wishful thinking putting into concrete form. For here is Roumania glorified, seen through rose-colored spectacles, an unqualifiedly eulogistic view of a country which now stands in a strategic position. Bolitho's purpose is to spur England on to cementing relations with this wonderland. He does it by showing how, in the interval of a year between visits, Roumania has emerged triumphant, King Carol and Prince Michael have put over social and economic reform, the youth movement is under way, the Jewish question has been smoothed over, even the oil concession to Germany has been nullified by strong talk from Carol. It is such a big puff for the country that one's sensibilities are suspicious, while one's appreciation of the charm and beauty and romance is stimulated. $2.75

February 22

Spencer, Hazelton THE ART AND LIFE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE Harcourt, Brace

Good source book for the college student, with numerous illustrations, but nothing startlingly new in line of fact or interpretation. Shakespeare's life - English drama and theatre at the time of his coming to London - a chapter on each play, with sources, data on performances over the years, on actors participating. This only is an original contribution. It is a dependable primer, based on unimpeachable sources Diligent but dull. $3.00

February 23

Morton, Rosalie Slaughter A DOCTOR'S HOLIDAY IN IRAN Funk & Wagnalls

The author of *A Woman Surgeon* fulfills her promise to herself and goes to Persia (Iran) on vacation. Of course, she drifts towards hospitals and clinics and doctors as she goes, but - interesting as these aspects of her journeyings are - they take second place to the rest of her impressions of a country reborn. An interesting and comprehensive survey of the history of Iran, of the coming of the new regime under Reza Shah, whom she considers the most brilliant and creative man in world politics. And she sets out to show what gives her basis for her feeling. It is more than a travel book, though people who like travel books will enjoy it. Social, educational, religious, economic, artistic, industrial phases of Iran are presented. The position of women is given ample space. There is less on governmental and political machinery than any other aspects of life. A laudatory and enthusiastic and uncritcal appraisal. Good reading. Illustrated by photographs. $3.00

February 24

Hogben, Lancelot DANGEROUS THOUGHTS Norton

A collection of essays and addresses by the author of *Mathematics for the Million*, but on a steeper intellectual level than his two contributions to popularized science. Dangerous thoughts - brilliant thoughts. Hogben is a liberal in the largest sense of the word, and with mordant wit and infallible logic, he attacks various phases of present day English civilization, prejudices, snobberies, provincialism, blindness to the real economic and social issues which are prefacing the way to the fall of capitalism. As a "scientific humanist", Hogben realizes that the new age of plenty demands a revolution in thought, in education, since the progress of science and industry has made possible a collectivist economy. Hogben belongs to no school of political thought, but in a disinterested manner tunnels away at the strictures of the left, the right, the Red and the Black, to show up the fallcie. Some very erudite, and esoteric material among these essays. Not for the average man-in-the-street, but for readers who will make the effort to think through Hogben's provocative text.
$2.75

Rickett, Edward W. & Hoogland, Benjamin T. LET'S DO SOME GILBERT AND SULLIVAN Coward, McCann

Definitely how to (and how not to) do book for the amateur production of any one of the thirteen light operas. Choice, size of company needed, degree of experience, technical resources, financial background, amount of time necessary, direction, (musical and stage), rehearsals, staff organization, tryouts, understudies, orchestra, scenery, and details of interpretation. Property lists for each opera. Glossary of stage terms. Invaluable short cut to simple or pretentious production. $2.50

Nossen, Dr. Herbert Ludwig TWELVE AGAINST ALCOHOL Harrison-Hilton

Twelve case histories of dipsomania, with the alcoholic's own story in his own words, intended to present the realistic components of the problem. Eleven instances of cure; one case where the patient did not want to be cured. Not an analysis of the method; the appeal is the "true story" appeal. Personalities vary from typesetter, to architect, to housewife, welder, socialite, artist, statistician, etc.
28 $2.50

Eastman, Max STALIN'S RUSSIA *And the Crisis in Socialism* Norton

This should disprove the idea that Eastman is purely and simply a "Trotskyite". He is primarily anti-Stalin; but he is not pro-Trotsky. He shows how Stalin out-Hitler's Hitler, he outlines the similarity of the two. He analyzes the puzzle of the confessions, of Trotsky. Then he reconsiders socialism, and lays out a new program of democratic collectivism with private property and industrial initiative within the framework of planning boards, and guarantees against totalitarianism. Plenty to challenge the liberal today, to give the communist and socialist new avenues of thought. 2-5-40 $2.50

Hagen, Oskar THE BIRTH OF THE AMERICAN TRADITION IN ART Scribner

Very specialized in market, this thorough going study of early American painting, its European backgrounds, the development of the native trends with the Revolution. The biographical material (Smibert, Feke, Copley and West) is secondary to the study of their work and their contribution to the establishment of an American art. Illustrated with a great number of black and white reproductions, carefully captioned. $3.50

*Announcing for February ~~28~~* March 6.

Blakey, Roy G. & Gladys C. THE FEDERAL INCOME TAX Longmans, Green

Definite history, to date, of legislation, administration and adjudication. A book for law libraries and for schools. $7.50

February 28

Meade, Julian R. BOUQUETS AND BITTERS: *A Gardener's Medley* Longmans, Green

* A beguiling book, which combines the appeal of a travel book, (See American Garden's First!) and literary and theatrical and screen chit chat, and hints on gardening that make one yearn for Spring. There's humor and enthusiasm and honesty in the telling, much of the charm that distinguishes Beverley Nichols, without the quaintness, and in the process one absorbs a great deal of garden lore and cold, hard fact. The decorations by John O'Hara Cosgrave are delightful, but one could wish they had been a bit more carefully placed in relation to the text. But let's not be captious and let's sell this book in travel book and garden book sections. $2.75 SR

February 29

Balch, Marston, ed. MODERN SHORT BIOGRAPHIES Harcourt, Brace

This is considerably more than a revision, since all but six of the selections are new (for this volume). First class names and first class writing, these excerpts from Sheean, Steffens, Clarance Day, John Reed, James Joyce. There's Untermeyer on Amy Lowell, Logan Pearsall Smith on Whitman, Van Wyck Brooks on Thoreau, Wolcott Gibbs on Henry Luce (remember it in the New Yorker?), Gunther on Chiang Kai-shek, and other names as good. A grand collection of material for reading and study. $2.00

Leeds, Stanton B. THESE RULE FRANCE Bobbs-Merrill
*The Story of Edouard Daladier and the Men Around Daladier*

An American journalist who has lived in France for 18 years gives birdseye views of the dominant personalities in the hodgepodge that is France today. The politicians, from the First Republic to the present; then the personalities, - writers, artists, actors, industrialists, bankers, armament tycoons, publicists, army men, etc. He depicts Daladier as a civilian Napoleon backed by the army. There's a great deal about the shifting sands of French politics and credos. A bit jumpy in style, but all-inclusive. $3.00

*Announcing for March*

Houston, Mary G. MEDIEVAL COSTUME IN ENGLAND Macmillan

These volumes on costume and design are proving sure sales items for bookshops, in a specialized field, and for almost all public libraries. This new one has 8 color plates, 334 drawings, and will cost $4.00. WESTERN EUROPEAN COSTUME *And Its Relation to the Theatre*, Vol. II, was published several months ago, at $5.00. And in January Kathleen Mann's DESIGN FROM PEASANT ART with 8 color plates and 72 line drawings was issued at $4.00. All valuable for theatre groups, schools of design, etc.

~~March 22~~ april 8 Catholic Book Club April

Wade, Mason MARGARET FULLER: *Whetstone of Genius* Viking

* A much broader canvas is used to delineate this peculiarly remarkable life

of Margaret Fuller than in Katherine Anthony's biography. Mr. Wade skillfully recreates the New York of Horace Greeley, the New England of the Transcendentalists, the revolutionary Italy of Garibaldi, as background for one of the unique products of New England culture, a complex, neurotic and somewhat repellent figure. When little more than a child, she was educated as if she were a Harvard student. Through life she capitalized her intellect, and only towards the close, after she had played an important role as the first feminist, with Greeley on the Tribune, did she allow her feminine nature to reach completion. This came through her Italian marriage - and the tragedy that ended it. As a person she was difficult and warped; as a personality she was an intellectual pioneer. A full-blooded piece of characterization, with full emphasis on the psychological. $3.50

March 1

Angell, Norman FOR WHAT DO WE FIGHT? Harper

The author of *The Great Illusion* restates his case on the basis of the present war. He expounds and amplifies his theory that only on cooperation between nations can a lasting peace be built. He takes issue with the claim that in the elimination of Naziism lies the answer. His criticism is not confined to Germany and Russia, but to the Allies of the last war, the neutrals of this. He takes up point by point the reasons for failure in the League, in the last peace, and pleads for the present as the opportunity for a basis of real union. $2.50

Bratt, Elmer C. THIS UNBALANCED WORLD Harper

Not a book for the casual reader, for it assumes a sound background of understanding of our present industrial system and its relation to capital, to durable goods, to governmental control and public interference. He analyzes the weaknesses of the various methods designed to re-establish stability, and outlines the policies which he feels would insure stability ahead. He recognizes - to some slight extent - the trend toward socialization and accepts the necessity, by gradual steps. A book for thoughtful business men and industrialists - but not for a wide sale. $2.50

Kravigny, Frank W. THE JUNGLE ROUTE Orlin Tremaine
(Yes, another new publisher)

Here is the record of one of the world's great engineering feats, the laying of the Madeira-Mamore Railroad, - " A human life for every cross tie laid." Thirty years ago Brazil agreed to the construction of this road around the Madeira Falls of the Amazon, a stretch of 200 miles of rapids, with jungle portages, the only outlet for the Bolivian provinces. American contractors succeeded where others failed. This is the story of one youth's share, of the year which carried him beyond his fellow's record. Vivid pictures of the country with enough anecdotal material to give the pace of adventure. But as a writing job, it seems amateurish and uneven. The interest is enhanced by fine photographs. Nice bit of typography. Publicity stunts, tie up with lectures, with autographing parties, made up of survivors, etc. $3.00

March 4

Sedgwick, Henry Dwight MADAME RECAMIER Bobbs-Merrill

It seems incredible that a man of Sedgwick's stature can do so flimsy, prosaic and totally uninspired a biography as this. To be sure, he had not a particularly inspiring character, but she surrounded herself with the personalities of her day, The handling of the material is incredible, "historical glosses" serve as fillers reconstructed playlets between characters, rococo style and artifical embelishments. $3.00

March 6

Bowers, Claude G. THE SPANISH ADVENTURES OF WASHINGTON IRVING Houghton,Mifflin

Irving's love of spectacles, his passion for history, his public and private life, his joy in the minor adventure he encountered all find a sympathetic interpreter in Bowers. Leisurely,detailed, appreciative tracing the journeyings of Irving by our ex-ambassador to Spain. He recreates Spain of a century ago, enjoying the process at a time when that Spain is no more, and both lovers of the old Spain and Irving fans will enjoy it with him. One follows Irving on his arrival in Madrid,the friends he made the court, the trips to Andalusia, Seville, Cadiz and Granada; and thirteen years later his return as minister, sympathetic with the child queen. Specialized market. $3.00

Anonymous MEDITATIONS IN WALL STREET Morrow

The introduction by Albert Jay Nock gives substance and credence to this amazing collection of aphorisms, bits of philosophy, the sort of jottings that one would give the world and all to be able to produce spontaneously in after-dinner speaking or in casual conversation. To think that the author is a "Wall Streeter" gives one a new vision of Wall Street - and a kindlier one. Here is a modern Montaigne, a modern Franklin - and the best thing about him is that he starts one's own thoughts in new channels, or variations of old channels. For guest room tables, pick up reading - and for consultation in preparations of the aforementioned after-dinner speaking. $1.50

March 27

SR

Johnstone, Nancy HOTEL IN FLIGHT Longmans, Green

* A sequel to *Hotel in Spain*, which I thought one of the most enchanting - and most sadly neglected - books of 1938. Do see if you can't make a plus sale of the earlier volume with this one, and you will find your customers appreciative...The Johnstones escaped from Fleet Street (London) to a dream Mediterranean cliff town in Spain, and launched the inn they had imagined. The materialization of their dream is told in the first book, and at its close, the civil war had begun, but Tossawas untouched.... I watched for news of Tossa as the war centered around Barcelona. It had a personal meaning for me, because of the Johnstones. Now comes their second story, *Hotel in Flight*. Gradually they found there was reality to this war, in spite of its opera bouffe elements, in spite of the characteristic Spanish ineffectualness. They undertook to run the inn as a colony for children. They took the hurdles with humor and understanding. And eventually they moved the children and escaped two days before Tossa fell. Read the book for yourself - and find the right customers. They must be there. $3.00 ✓

March 8

SR

Chubb, Thomas Caldecot ARETINO *Scourge of Princes* Reynal & Hitchcock

* An entertaining, vivid and fully documented biography of the greatest rogue and opportunist of the Renaissance. This first of blackmailers literally rose from stable and gutter, by his wit and his pen. Through his assurance he became an intimate of princes and artists, a patron of scoundrels. He lived what he was, a dynamic and spectacular person. The opulence and beauty of his palace, his table, his women was unequaled in a lavish age. An adventurer, an able playwright, the first journalist, the first art critic - a gargantuan success, against the pageantry of the Renaissance. Colorful, amusing, meteoric. A scholarly book, which is likewise grand entertainment. Ill'd. $3.50

Wilenski, R.H. MODERN FRENCH PAINTERS Reynal & Hitchcock

Criticism, art history, biography - from Manet to the present. Realism, impressionism, cubism, surrealism - they are all there. If you like them, and understand them, maybe you'll like and understand this book. As for me - I don't. The text is liberally illustrated with black and white reproductions of the paintings of the artists:- Manet, Cezanne, Monet, Renoir, Pissaro, Sisley, Degas, Seurat, Van Gogh, Lautrec, Picasso, Matisse, Gauguin, Chirico, Modigliani - and many less well known. (March 8th) $8.00

March 10

Cranwell, John Philips & Crane, William Bowers MEN OF MARQUE Norton

"This book," reports our maritime expert, E.S. McCawley," is a record of the ships and men who sailed under Letters of Marque, principally out of Baltimore, when President Madison issued commissions to private armed vessels during the War of 1812. In this tough school were trained men who later took important parts in our naval and marine development. And from the lessons learned, emerged the fast cargo boats of a later era. Important for the sea shelf. Exciting accounts of desperate small ship operations. Good historical material for information on a phase of the influence of war on the development of future commercial activity. Illustrated and with appendix listing ships and officers of the important vessels sailing under 'letters of marque.' Good solid stuff for them as likes it." $3.75

Nelles, Walter A LIBERAL IN WARTIME March 8 Norton
*The Education of Albert De Silver*

De Silver was wartime associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union. The part of the book dealing with his work for the Union is the most interesting, and it is timely in that it contains a warning to us today. That liberty could have stood at such a low in this country during the war and the years following, is frightening, for we - in 1940 - think of such things as infinitely remote from us. The developments of De Silver's attitudes of mind are revealed chiefly by quotations from his letters written from college days to his death. Not a distinguished book, nor a dramatic biography, but readable and of special value today. $2.50

March 15

SR

Chamberlain, John THE AMERICAN STAKES Carrick & Evans

* A liberal discards, rejects, denies, rebuilds. And to do this he examines the evidence which he has previously accepted or rejected. He goes back into history, he appraises almost forgotten source material, he neither accepts wholeheartedly nor rejects definitively. He studies politics, economics, foreign and domestic problems, war and peace, collectivisim and cooperatives. He goes just so far and no farther along liberal lines; he recognizes the achievements of the New Deal, but does not overlook the mistakes. His criticism seems to reject basic principles of democracy, but in the final analysis it adds up to a belief in democracy redefined and strengthened, with the best from all groups absorbed into a democratic state. A provocative book. $2.75

Housman, A.E. COLLECTED POEMS Holt SR

The finest poems from his published volumes, with an additional twenty which had not appeared in his own books previously. There are also three of his chorus translations from the Greek. Housman is the purest poet of our time, and this collection, though the late stray fragments add nothing new to evaluation of his work, should have a permanent place. $3.00??

*Announcing for* ~~March 18~~ July

Wood, John Walter AIRPORTS Coward, McCann

Design, construction, financing and operation of airports. Photographs, etc. $10.00

March 19

Kimmel, Stanley THE MAD BOOTHS OF MARYLAND Bobbs-Merrill

An over-exploited field, perhaps, but this biography is not only exhaustively comprehensive and thoroughly documented, but darned good reading. Biography of a tempestuous family, half mad, half genius. The story starts with Junius Senior, who deserted home and child, made an ex-legal second marriage and cemented it with ten children. Tender, kindly, he was the first one recorded to reveal the uncontrolled excesses, alcoholic and melancholic, which shadowed his descendants. Next, Junius, Edwin and John Wilkes - the three who took up acting. In John Wilkes, the loss of his voice, precipitated a mad desire for notoriety, which culminated in the assassination of Lincoln. Kimmel disposes, once and for all, of unfounded legends. $3.75

*Announcing for March* 13

Mendel, Alfred O. Ed. THE LIVING THOUGHTS LIBRARY Longmans, Green

Four new volumes:- EMERSON, presented by Edgar Lee Masters; TOM PAINE, by John Dos Passos; PASCAL by Francois Mauriac, and THOMAS JEFFERSON by John Dewey. Each $1.00

~~March 21~~ april 4.

Davison, Edward COLLECTED POEMS 1917 - 1939 Harper

Middle level collection of poems of the English poet, now on the staff of Boulder College. There are 28 new poems; the balance have appeared in previous volumes. Versatile in forms, monotonous in themes, not distinguished but pleasing. $2.00

Gesell, Arnold - *and others* THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF LIFE Harper
*A Guide to the study of Early Child Development*

This is the ourgrowth of the work of the Yale Clinic of Child Development, and of a volume published 15 years ago, a psychological outline of normal development. Of primary interest to nursery schools, educators and experts, not to the layman. Each of the first five years handled separately, by motor, adaptive, language, social gradations. Conduct patterns, Record, Arrangements. Specialized field. $3.50

Hunter, Robert REVOLUTION *Why, How, When?* Harper

The historical background of revolutions, methods and techniques. He draws challenging parallels between modern day revolutions and those of the past. He analyzes the cycle of the Russian revolution, gives full discussion to Lenin's techniques. By definition, he limits his discussion to fundamental transformations, not to rebellions, and shows how the last war shifted the trend of democracies from a rise to a fall. State Planned Economy is the goal to which all countries are now moving, he feels, and he does not omit the New Deal from his charge. Whatever one's political bias, thd book is challenging, an interesting study of revolutions and good reading. $3.00

*Announcing* 4-8

Dewey, John and others THE PHILOSOPHER OF THE COMMON MAN Putnam

Essays in honor of John Dewey, and one essay by John Dewey to celebrate his eightieth birthday. Contributors have aimed to interpret his genius, and each contributor is an authority in the field he treats. $2.75

March 22

Kirkus, Virginia A HOUSE FOR THE WEEK ENDS Little, Brown

*Joseph Henry Jackson, of the San Francisco Chronicle reports as follows:-* "For once here is a house-in-the-country book that is neither cutie-pie nor ecstatically mystical. Instead, it's a 'how to' book of rare quality. Miss Kirkus wanted a week-end house, and found one that suited her means, spent the next four years doing it over and living in it. Now she tells the story in detail, always shrewdly extending the application of what she herself has done to what her readers may want to do. Each chapter is followed by several pages of 'Notebook Leaves' summarizing the lessons learned and packed with useful facts and valuable advice, and the volume includes a reading list of titles the author found useful in streamlining the job she had undertaken. Best feature of the book is that its hints and general counsel are sound stuff anywhere, north, south, east or west. The result is a veritable textbook on the art of week-end living for those of the middle-income group who want to get into the country when they can, yet a textbookthat carries its innumerable facts and bits of good advice imbedded in the amber of a good story. Prospects: Any of a million Americans, more or less, who have ever dreamed of a house in the country. Miss Kirkus has aimed straight at those people. Her book will charm the woman reader and please her husband by its utterly practical viewpoint." Illustrated in line by Dorothy Bayley. $2.50

Davis, W.E. TEN YEARS IN THE CONGO Reynal & Hitchcock

Ten years as mission doctor to thousands of natives scattered over a wide area should provide substance for a good story. Unfortunately, Davis seems to lack the ability to spin a yarn. It seems just another book on Africa. He divides his book into subject units, - The Church in the Congo; Birth, Marriage and Death; Witch Doctors and Congo Customers, etc. The emphasis is on the Congoese rather than on himself, so it lacks that ineffable personal touch. There are interesting bits, but the writing is colorless. The last part of the book gathers momentum (or perhaps one gets hardened?) Illustrated with photographs. March Scientific Book Club. $2.50

March 26

Davis, Elmer NOT TO MENTION THE WAR Bobbs-Merrill

Radio has brought Elmer Davis into touch with people who never knew him as essayist or dramatist. Now here is a volume of his essays,-pleasant and entertaining and deliberately selected because they have nothing to do with the war. They deal with literature, with philosophy, with contract bridge, with Jews, with political attitudes towards women. Nothing profound, but facile and charming. $2.50

March 27

Tetlow, Henry ON MEDLOCK FARM Morrow

Not so practical as the first volume, *We Farm for a Hobby and Make It Pay.* These chapters are random addenda, on such varied subjects as night walks, pets, poultry, taxes, spraying, honesty, country points of view, country smells, biodynamic theory, and so on. Delightful reading, but more local in interest, and less stimulating. Buried deep in the text (most of which makes farming seem pretty simple), is a word of warning:- don't go in for it without capital or time. In other words they didn't make it pay all in a minute (or on a shoestring at the start). Of special interest to those who know the section near Philadelphia of which he talks so intimately. $2.50

~~March 27~~ 4/16

Flanner, Janet AN AMERICAN IN PARIS Simon & Schuster
*Profile of an Interlude Between Two Wars*

The New Yorker's Letters from France - profiles, current events, all kinds of characters jostling each other - highspot the pre-politically minded 20's. Such varied figures as Queen Mary (the non-changing personality delightfully, intimately sympathetically done), Bullitt, Picasso, Elsie de Wolfe, Coty, Stravinsky, Pons, Elsa Maxwell, Worth, Mainbocher, Stavisky; then crimes and scandals, a 1935 article on Hitler; inside stuff with plenty of color and detail. Good reading. $2.50 ✓

~~March 28~~ april 18.

Long, John C. MR. PITT *And America's Birthright* SR Stokes

* Most of us were brought up on Burke; not many of us realize that our staunchest defender, back in our Colonial infancy, was William Pitt, member of the House, Prime Minister, in office and out. This is a biography - and a rattling good one. It sounded dull to me. There's not a dull page in it. It is alive with the spirit of the times, with the personalities, the scandals, the nuances - and the humanity of William Pitt himself. First rate follow-up reading on Quennel's life of Caroline, who was queen in Pitt's youth. Well paced, informal and yet authentic. Well documented, with bibliography, index and fifty illustrations. $3.50

April 3

Ball, Max THE FASCINATING OIL BUSINESS Bobbs-Merrill

The facts behind oil - one step up from a primer, for it is substantial and detailed, crammed with facts. Not a history - nor yet a biography. But a functional book, a book that answers all the whats and whos of the discovery of oil, the digging, what to do when the oil comes in, and the methods of taking it from the wells and making it usable. Colloquial and informal, but pretty dull. $2.50

*Announcing for April 9*

Rose, Mary Swartz FEEDING THE FAMILY Macmillan

The definitive book on the diet and health of the family, revised and brought up to date to include results of the latest research on minerals, vitamins, allergies, etc. Contains menus, recipes, charts of food values, height and weight charts, specialized need programs, etc. An essential handbook for anyone concerned with nutrition problems. $5.00

April 10 ✓ SR

Mortenson, Ernest YOU BE THE JUDGE Longmans, Green SR

* This is a refreshingly novel approach to the usual dry-as-dust subject of law. I really had a lot of fun with it, and found it a treasury of legal lore through bits and scraps of human drama. Fascinating-comprehensive (I found the ommission of matters pertaining to taxes and the law the only conspicuous lack). But all the things that touch our daily living were there, and all made comprehensible through the stories in which the facts were embodied. There is a game element too, in the problem stories at the end of each chapter - (with the answers, cleverly enough not arranged in exact order). Humorous illustrations by Alain. $3.75 ✓

April 15

Tenney, H. Kent LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR BABY Univ. of Minn.

This covers, generally and simply, the first year of life. There are various guideposts of growth, feeding, development; cautions and advice; discussion of sickness and what to do about it. Never specifically detailed as to instructions, non-scarifying, average common sense talks with practical application. Slightly (oh so) humorous angle. The sort of book that parents who wont tackle the forbidding treatises will find they can use. Suggest that local pediatricicans have a look at the book with a view to recommending it to prospective mothers and mothers with young (particularly first) babies. Dr. Tenney is in active private practice as well as teaching pediatrics at the Univ. of Wisconsin. The format of the book is to be attractive and practical, and will be available in pink or blue, and will have a place for a record of the baby's first year. The ideal baby gift. $1.00

*Too Many Last Minute Arrivals to Risk Neglecting Them*

Published

Federal Writers Projects FLORIDA Oxford

This is a particularly useful volume in this excellent series, which should be staple items on every bookseller's shelves. Florida's season is at its height (or would be were seasons not standing on their beam ends, apparently down there), and now is your chance to make sales on this volume. Follows the plan of the others, reported at intervals during the past two years. $2.50

Waller, Willard, ed. WAR IN THE 20TH CENTURY Random House

This is a symposium of specialists writing on the historical background of war, the effects of the first world war, the interlude, society in war time, war and civilization. Among the contributors are such well known men as Max Lerner, Harry Elmer Barnes, Quincy Howe, Lamar Middleton, etc. Indexed. $3.00

Power, Michael RELIGION IN THE REICH Longmans, Green

Shows how both Catholics and Protestants were led on to believe they would have the right to worship according to their custom - and how then they were more and more circumscribed until they were forced into line with the Nazi tenets - or penalized for infringement. Certain brave leaders have tried to block the drift, so far in vain. The author still clings to belief in Christianity eventually surviving, but the evidence he produces indicates that only revolution or Nazi disaster can save them. A damning book which will make Christians realize that the battle is not only against the Jews, but against the Christian faith. $2.00

January 31

Ommanney, F.D. NORTH CAPE Longmans, Green

* Not as exciting as its predecessor, *Below the Roaring '40's*, but in its very detachment from the problems of today, it has a unique value as escape reading. An intimate picture of a trawlerman's life around Iceland, achieved through shipping as a deck hand, he shares his experiences, - sights, sounds, smells, and he shares too his knowledge of the men he lived with. He sees everything - and he knows supremely well how to share his experiences and thoughts with others. Illustrated with photographs. $2.50

February 21

Olson, Alma Luise SCANDINAVIA: *Background for Neutrality* Lippincott

The five states that make up the Scandinavian group have evolved an ideal of a new north, united and neutral. The author discusses the common denominators of these countries which makes it possible for them to work together. She believes that even the invasion of Finland cannot crush this ideal. She takes each country separately, tracing their backgrounds, the early history and legend; she discusses each from political, economic and cultural point of view, introducing the personalities that have entered conspicuously into this history. The book is timely in view of the crisis, and the history of the struggle between Russia and Finland throws some light on the present. But the book is humdrum and mediocre, merely a competent job of reporting and not a real interpretation. $2.50

February 15

Nourse, Mary A. KODO, The Way of the Emperor Bobbs-Merrill
*A Short History of the Japanese*

The author's excellent history of the Chinese, *The Four Hundred Million* now available in a new edition, with new material, is the basis for the assumption that this compact history of the Japanese will prove equally enlightening to the Occidental mind. Twenty illustrations and 4 map end papers. $3.50

February 18

Rauschning, Hermann THE VOICE OF DESTRUCTION Putnam

Even the United States was included - back in 1933 - 1934 - in Hitler's schemes of world power. And Herr Rauschning was there to jot it down, this and countless other things that Hitler said, much more revealing than the things he wrote. At different places and under different circumstances, Rauschning served as an unofficial Boswell, revealing the Fuehrer's philosophy of lying, deceit and destruction. The book was published in England under the title *Hitler Speaks*. Now it is being released here. It gives one of the most vivid pictures of Hitler in action, how he looks, acts, speaks, showing his mystic power over his followers. The success of *Revolution of Nihilism* creates a readymade market for this book. $2.75

~~February 19~~ March 18

Spaeth, Sigmund BARBER SHOP BALLADS Prentice Hall

The Tune Detective makes another contribution to *Music Is Fun*, by digging up many of the old ballads that have been popular fare on street corners, in social gatherings, at bars, in schools and colleges, etc., and shows how to get new and individual "swipes" (chords outside the common ones used in regular singing). He has made some original arrangements of songs that have lived despite man-handling of generations. Sweet Adaline, How Dry I Am, Way Down Yonder in the Cornfield, We Never Speak As We Go By, Shine on Harvest Moon, and so on. He gives the background of some famous Barber Shop Quartettes who compete for prizes around the country and tells of the initial plans for the proposed contest at the World's Fair next summer, in which the champions will be brought from all over the country. This book should be a good buy for anyone interested in putting fancy touches to old favorites, for the world must sing, and this will help singers in all levels of society to get more fun out of their singing. It is a "natural" for squibsters and columnists - and should get a special sort of publicity in circles where the ordinary book would not be noticed. Have you a Barber Shop Quartet in your home town? $1.96

## PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES IN TITLE, DATE AND PRICE

| | Page |
|---|---|
| Crowell | |
| Ward, E.D. - FIVE FOR BRIDGE - Definite date 2/28 | 7 |
| Farrar & Rinehart | |
| Brooke, E.E. - CAREER CLINIC - from 1/29 to 2/19 | 13 |
| Gorman, H. - JAMES JOYCE - from 2/1 to 2/15 | 575 |
| Lippincott | |
| Johnson, O. - I MARRIED ADVENTURE - Definite date 2/28 | 28 |
| Simon & Schuster | |
| Adler, M. J. - HOW TO READ A BOOK - from February to 3/5 | 28 |
| Stokes | |
| Pier, Arthur - THE YOUNG MAN FROM MOUNT VERNON - from 2/21 to 2/19 | 19 |

Erratum; Note on text - AGENT OF DEATH by Elliott & Beatty (Dutton) is an autobiography while I KILLED FOR THE LAW (Stackpole) is a biography.

## THE NEW YORK OFFICE CALENDAR - FEBRUARY 15TH TO MARCH 1ST

| | | |
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| February 15- | Sayers, Dorothy- IN THE TEETH OF THE EVIDENCE (Harcourt Brace) | 7 |
| February 16- | Rauschning, Hermann- THE VOICE OF DESTRUCTION (Putnam) | 57 |
| | Sinclair, Harold- THE YEARS OF GROWTH (Doubleday, Doran) | 569 |
| February 19- | Edgley, Leslie- NO BIRDS SING (Farrar & Rinehart) | 569 |
| Mar 18- | Spaeth, Sigmund- BARBER SHOP BALLADS (Prentice Hall) | 57 |
| February 20- | Albee, Bill & Ruth- ALASKA CHALLENGE (Dodd Mead) | 28 |
| | Longstreet, Stephen- DECADE (Random House) | 564 |
| February 21- | Buck, Pearl- OTHER GODS (John Day) | 35 |
| | Christie, Agatha- AND THEN THERE WERE NONE (Dodd Mead) | 563 |
| | McGuire, Paul- ENTER THREE WITCHES (Morrow) | 7 |
| | Shute, Nevil- AN OLD CAPTIVITY (Morrow)- Literary Guild Selection for March | 3 |
| February 22- | Fuller, Iola- THE LOON FEATHER (Harcourt Brace) | 36 |
| | Gass, L.B.- FAMILY CRISIS (Reynal & Hitchcock) | 567 |
| | Van Doren, M.- WINDLESS CABINS (Henry Holt) | 550 |
| February 23- | Caldwell, Erskine- TROUBLE IN JULY (Duell, Sloan & Pearce) | 35 |
| | Morton, Rosalie S.- A DOCTOR'S HOLIDAY IN IRAN (Funk & Wagnalls) | 47 |
| | Pinkerton, Kathrene- THREE'S A CREW (Carrick & Evans) | 27 |
| | Wells, Susan- FOOTSTEPS IN THE AIR (Simon & Schuster) | 41 |
| February 26- | Colby, Frances Bainbridge- THE BLACK WINDS BLOW (Harrison Hilton) | 37 |
| | Ford, Leslie- ROAD TO FOLLY (Scribner) | 21 |
| | Hogben, Lancelot- DANGEROUS THOUGHTS (Norton) | 48 |
| | Kantor, MacKinlay- CUBA LIBRE (Coward McCann) | 37 |
| | Kozik, Francis- THE GREAT DEBUREAU (Farrar & Rinehart) | 44 |
| | Kroll, H.H.- THE KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE (Bobbs Merrill) | 37 |
| February 27- | Williams, Ben Ames- COME SPRING (Houghton Mifflin) | 570 |
| February 28- | Johnson, Osa- I MARRIED ADVENTURE (Lippincott) | 28 |
| | Meade, Julian R.- BOUQUET AND BITTERS (Longmans Green) | 49 |
| February 29- | Allen, H.- IT WAS LIKE THIS (Farrar & Rinehart) | 11 |
| | Genevoix, M.- THE LAST HUNT (Random House) | 563 |

*BULLETIN* FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. VIII February 1, 1940 No. 3

Pre-Lenten

# RELIGIOUS BOOK SUPPLEMENT

## Edited by Gene Simmonds

Lent's here again, February ~~14~~ 7, to be exact. Easter is March 24 and to a world so intent upon war and want these forty days of meditation will be used in varied ways. There will be churches giving classes in Red Cross work, in First Aid, in Foreign Affairs and Current Events as well as Mission Study so you have a chance to stock and sell an entirely different type of religious book. Try a window that will show the varied paths such study classes may take. The problem of India with the new Stanley Jones; "And Pilate Said" for a wide awake group with an interest in the power we place in our executives' and statesmen's hands; group the devotional books for retreats or personal quiet hours; suggest reading of the inspirational titles while bandages are being rolled. This is the first religious supplement for 1940 and it shows how lists have improved each year with the public's growing interest in books of a religious and inspirational nature, excellent books by world renowned authors, clergy, professors, doctors, statesmen. They deserve able promotion and will reward the enterprising bookseller with splendid sales.

Baldwin, A. Graham . THE DRAMA OF OUR RELIGION Oxford

This is a piece of work that has long needed doing and Mr. Baldwin has done it well. In spite of the text book format the story of our religion from the earliest days is simply and directly told. Cause and effect of the great political, national and social upheavals are clearly described and through it all we watch with wonder and fascination the development of the Christian religion. Put in more attractive form with a bright jacket this book could go places where no dry history of religion would be tolerated for the text, style, the quotations from the Bible and from such modern apostles as Studdert Kennedy and the big print make it a joyous discovery. We couldn't put it down. But you'll have to suggest and sell it. Convince customers of its charm, in spite of its brown paper jacket. Ready. $1.80

Bixler, Julius Seelye RELIGION FOR FREE MINDS Harper

Here is a book for liberals who argue they can't reason religion out, that they must be able to explain the faith within them. Professor Bixler is used to that. It's an old story at Harvard where he is professor of theology, but Harvard has no monoply of it. The world today is full of honest doubters and less honest arguers. Reason has been talked, so much that students begin to doubt and those who keep their faith feel apologetic. This is a swell deflater for the windbags and for the honest liberal; a thoughtful, intelligent study of the subject coming to the conclusion that it is entirely possible for the liberal to have a sound religion based on sure reason. Clergy, students, professors and trained minds will delight in the clear logic of the argument but the average reader will find it requires above average concentration. Ready. $2.50

Blount, Ralph E. LOVE LOYAL Cokesbury

A high school approach to love -- questions, answers and advice based on a course Mr. Blount has given for several years to his senior class. Modern and broad enough to be wise and helpful. Ready. $1.00

Bowie, W. Russell REMEMBERING CHRIST Abingdon

Dr. Bowie has been rector of Grace Church, New York, for nearly twenty years, preaching to a large and varied congregation. Rich and poor, old and young, crowd the church for noonday and Sunday services. All these sermons were preached there and are characteristic of the author's charm and ability to write simply and persuasively on common problems--The Place of Motherhood, Daring to Live, Neighborliness, Understanding and Divinity, but his theme comes back to the Christ. Ready. $1.50

Eastman, Fred MEN OF POWER Cokesbury

Lenin, Gandhi, Trudeau and Stevenson complete the series of Men and Power and the set of five volumes is now available boxed. Lives as varied as the lands from which they came yet all powerful in their own way throughout the world. The source and secrets of their strength, fascinating details and Mr. Eastman's flair for bringing the dead and living to action on his stage all tend to make these sixty minute biographies exceptional. Ready. 5 vol., each $1.50

Eggleston, Margaret W. FORTY STORIES FOR THE CHURCH, SCHOOL AND HOME Harper

A book of stories to fill the difficult niche for any group of 10 to 15 year olders, Good, he-man stories with constructive ideas instead of sugar coated morals that touch on history, science, nature study and social themes. Ready. $1.50

Goodykoontz, Colin B. HOME MISSIONS ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER Caxton Printers

Although Dr. Goodykoontz doesn't profess to have written an encyclopaedia on Home Missions since he has emphasized the Congregational and Presbyterian. He has given at least enough of the Baptist, Methodist and Episcopal work to allow us to call it a usable handbook on Protestant Missions. An excellent piece of work which missionary groups will find invaluable as a source book of information and inspiration. Ready. $3.50

Hagedorn, Hermann COMBAT AT MIDNIGHT John Day

Rugged sermons in verse, modern, mystical, practical; Oxford Group theme songs, sung to the refrain of "Where man listens, God guides." Where the standards of honesty, purity, unselfishness and love are broken by individuals or nations, strife, pain and death ensue until restitution brings Resurrection and Rebirth. Varied and well done. The subjects show a knowledge of social ills and human need, unhappy homes large and small, in wealth and want, garage men changed by a stranger in a station wagon. A book the younger generation will understand. It speaks their language even though it shocks the prudes. February 15. $2.00

Heimsath, Charles H. SERMONS ON THE INNER LIFE Cokesbury

The kind of book with which any reader, clergy, teacher or layman will be the better for reading in quiet meditation. It is simple, direct and unembellished, but it breathes the spirit and message of Christ and the inner satisfaction and peace experienced by the man who takes Him at His word. Ready. $1.50

Hoffman, Ross, J.S. THE ORGANIC STATE Sheed & Ward

"The renovation of the state in answer to the necessities of the social order" has been our major problem and will no doubt loom even larger after the present war. A new state based on these needs can emerge from democracy provided it is strong enough to discipline and combat the distracting elements. There is here a good deal about Italy much of which is adaptable to our conditions. Anyone interested in politics and the social order will find it a novel and provocative book. Place on Current Events table and not religious section although written from the Christian viewpoint. Ready. $1.50

Hoh, Paul J. & Philip R. TWO MINUTES WITH GOD Cokesbury

The authors, father and son, aged 12, have worked over three years on this manuscript with excellent results. Any parents planning family prayers know how hard it is to find short devotional periods worked out on various subjects that are suitable for the children and yet inspiring to adults too. The Hohs accomplish this and more. Ready. $1.50

Jones, E. Stanley ALONG THE INDIAN ROAD Abingdon

* The *Christ of the Indian Road* which brought so many readers inspiration and Dr. Jones such fame now has an equally inspiring sequel. For the Christ still walks the Indian Road, still loves and lifts the burden from the millions who have turned to Him. This is the story of the Indian Road some twenty years after, seen through the experienced eyes of the man who worked for years among the Brahmins, who knows their culture, intellect, pride of race and how to meet them on their own grounds but was able to make them realize "one thing they lacked." The complex nationalist movement, the political problems, Gandhi, the governors, the Viceroy are met, given credit for good points and brains. A fascinating study, this Indian peep show, and very apt at this time. Ready. $1.50

Lamping, Severn & Stephen, O.F.M., Editors THROUGH HUNDRED GATES Bruce

This idea excited me, I picked up the book with enthusiasm, a hundred gates to the Kingdom of God, an original and inspiring thought. Rockne, Undset, Claudel Chesterton, an impressive group representing twenty-two nationalities who've knocked and been received. To the Roman Catholic this book will not be disappointing, quite the reverse! But the Protestant or Anglo-Catholic fascinated by the idea and seeking help will find it sheer propoganda for the Roman Catholic Chruch. True these are converts and as such always more narrow and biased. For example, Sheila Kaye-Smith states she "wasted twelve years in the Church of England". God is at work only at Rome! And so we say again-for your Roman Catholic trade a three star number, but even to some of them it will seem overenthusiastic in its emphasis on the Catholic Church instead of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Ready. $2.50

Morison, Frank AND PILATE SAID... Scribner

** Lenten fare with trimmings but plenty of sound meat. Delightfully written. The first chapters seem difficult but it is just a question of getting accustomed to the style and method of investigation. Then the big seaplane lifts the reader high over war-torn Europe, Africa and Asia and swoops down in an ancient land to reconstruct the Palestine of Jesus' day. The purpose is to study the mind of the man we blame even in our creeds for what he failed to prevent rather than what he ordered. "Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried." Few of us are not

guilty of crimes of omission. Mr. Morison puts us into Pilate's place; with him we are torn and pulled by patriotism, duty, personal ambition, career, conscience, Caiaphas and Claudia. We also meet the man Jesus; we question Him in the inner room; we ask "what is truth" and we, too, "find no fault in Him." If we did nothing more this Lent than answer honestly the questions "What would we have done? What do we do today?" this book could transform our world. Recommend it for study classes, for clergy, for individuals, put it in your circulating libraries. We're enthusiastic about it not only as a super sales possibility but as a spiritual force. Illustrated, 55 photographs especially taken for this book. Ready. $2.75

Marsh, Daniel L. THE AMERICAN CANON Abingdon

An interpretation of patriotism in terms of *Canon* rather than *Cannon*. Be sure you know which is which, for this is not a book on armaments of the steel and powder variety but the great pacts, speeches and addresses, a Bible designed to lead us not into, but away from war and revolution. The Mayflower pact; the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States; Washington's Farewell Address; the Star Spangled Banner; Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address and Wilson's, Road away from Revolution. High ideals expressing humanity's hopes. Will they work? Certainly they are worth a trial. Ready: $1.00

Merrill, Boynton FROM WHENCE COMETH MY HELP Harper

Strikingly simple! Word pictures that carry the flavor and clarity of the parables, vignettes that speak to the needs of men and answer the questions they can't quite phrase. A good book for a course of weekly talks. Clergy will welcome them for the freshness and novelty of Mr. Merrill's approach. Ready. $1.25

Parker, Eric ANTHOLOGY OF THE BIBLE Lippincott
*Foreword* by the Very Rev. C.A. Alington,
Bishop of Durham

Not to be left behind the great simplification process religion, too, joins the movement and Mr. Parker has sifted, sorted, selected and systematized the bible in a most efficient manner. Here a hurried priest or harassed teacher will be able to turn to any desired subject, read several passages, choose the one he prefers and be ready at a moment's notice with an appropriate text or reading. But besides being a veritable thumb index to the bible many readers will find it a profitable source of study. Topical study is interesting, inspiring and enlightening and all the student will have to do with Mr. Parker's anthology is decide what topic he'd like to pursue-- prayer, sorrow, joy, valour, trial, courage, sea, land , family life, brotherhood, womanhood, faith or what he will.-- He'll find it there. Ready. $3~~.50~~ 00

Rhoades, Winfred HAVE YOU LOST GOD? Lippincott

If you or your clients have lost God here is the path upon which the author found Him. The first part of the book is given to the steps leading to the experience, the second developing that experience. It is the path of reason, hypothesis and spiritual and mystical development, and inner consciousness. Hence it is a book for the reticent rather than evangelical, the churchman rather than the protestant. It is personal, honest and rings true. Ready. $1.00

Richardson, Cyril C. THE SACRAMENT OF REUNION Scribner

Here in a small book are the basic points on which the Protestant Episcopal and the Presbyterian branches of the church agree and differ, sympathetically propounded by Dr. Richardson, with the aid of Dr. Coffin and Dr. Robbins. These three know these

problems as few leaders do and yet all feel that Reunion can and should be accomplished. Certainly every church of both denominations should have a copy to put at the disposal of its members. Every member should read it. It is enlightening, challenging and hopeful. Ready. $1.25

Riddle, Donald Wayne, PAUL, MAN OF CONFLICT Cokesbury

More critical than biographical, unfortunately, as a good, easy-going life of Paul would go well. Dr. Riddle is too much of a student to write anything but a scholarly critique--each new thought presents a problem and each conflict of Paul's lures him off into the realm of New Testament investigation and research. So it's a grand book for the clergy, teachers or scholars but it presupposes too great a knowledge of Judaism and Pauline studies to be termed "a modern biographical sketch" or appreciated by the average laymen. Rather it is a brilliant and stimulating study. Ready. $2.00

Smith, Roy L. DESERT DEMOCRACY Abingdon

Some 3500 years ago the political, economic and social systems were about as brutal as they are today. Into this world there came the prophet Moses preaching God's message that man was free, made in His image, and to Ezra ben Adab democracy dawned as a ray of hope for the present and a promise of eternal life. Dr. Smith has a vivid style but the subject is such a vital one today that the reader needs very little imagination to see the parallel between the world of Moses'day and our own. The growth of democracy, its inevitable barriers and obstacles are clearly outlined and the answers are the same as they were on Sinai. Dictators, greed and suffering still persist and a Christian Democracy is still the answer. It hasn't been tried and failed. It has never been tried. Ready. $1.50

Stewart, George S. THE LOWER LEVELS OF PRAYER Cokesbury

* A man must know how to pray before he can instruct others effectively in the art. Dr. Stewart is a master whose entire career has fitted him to write this book. A missionary in Africa, minister to a great city parish and professor in a great Scotch Seminary, he is bound to know the questions as well as all the answers. However, this is no ordinary book on prayer. It breathes Dr. Stewart's rare spirit, insight and faith and it conveys as simply as a primer the great mysteries of prayer to the seeking reader. This a book for every bookshop and book department to put on its staple list and confidently suggest and recommend. Ready. $1.50

Thomas, Edith Lovell SING, CHILDREN, SING Abingdon

A grand idea and an excellent piece of work, well planned and selected. Such useful and attractive material deserves to be gotten up more attractively. It has a text-booky look and the photographs don't show up well. However, it is an extremely rich contribution to a very lean field. Planned for churches, schools and libraries as well as homes and halls where young children gather for instruction or fun. Here are seven groups arranged with a reading, a bit of verse, a short tune to which the children listen and a number for them to sing. Ready. $1.00

*BULLETIN* FROM

Virginia Kirkus' Bookshop Service 439 East 51st Street

Vol. VIII February 1, 1940 No. 3

## JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT:- No. 1

Note:. We had not intended to start reporting juveniles until February 15th, but so many 1940 juveniles were creeping up on us, that we are giving you this extra juvenile supplement to clear the decks on January and February publications. February dates noted.

### *PICTURE STORY BOOKS*

Hogan, Inez — NICODEMUS AND THE NEWBORN BABY — Dutton

These Hogan titles, particularly the Nicodemus ones, have found their place and any additional title is sure of a substantial sale. I like them. My query in regard to this one is directed towards the gauging of the ignorance of the small child of this age in regard to the "facts of life". It doesn't seem quite convincing for Nicodemus (who must be round about six or seven anyhow) to be so innocent. However, the market for which the book is intended is younger than that, and perhaps this way of introducing them to the story of birth may meet many parents' approval. $2.00

Schwartz, Jerome — OSCAR THE OSTRICH — Random House

A juvenile - I wonder! Sell it with tongue in cheek a bit, for it is a very modern parable, which children may enjoy for the pictures and the story of the ostrich who didn't like noise and stuck his head in the sand, and of how he learned that he had to shout louder than the other noisy ostrich, if he would protect his own rights. But the adult interpretation is the one the author must want. (2/6) $1.00

Wilson, Eleanore Hubbard — MR. PUMPS GOES TO BAT — Dutton

This is a sequel to *Mr. Pumps the Popsicle Man* but is is a more elaborate story, and belongs in that marginal group - part picture-story-book, part read-aloud, part first readers. This time Mr. Pumps gets into a ball game, breaks a window and goes to jail because he cannot pay the fine, so his friends the children come to the rescue and get some business for him (and they too fall under the law). $1.00

### *BOOKS TO READ ALOUD* ( 6-9)

Bailey, Margery — WHISTLE FOR GOOD FORTUNE — Little,Brown

This is tip top story telling material, with folk lore background drawn from France, Germany, Poland, Italy, England and Sweden. Very charmingly done, with an original sort of connecting link, in which a small boy, kept in after school for not knowing his arithmetic, trades riddles for stories with six peddlers. The arithmetic end will produce confusion worse confounded, however, as the youngster uses riddles that are much more advanced in arithmetic than the problem of six from six leaves what - and the answer to that in the end will puzzle the already puzzled even more. Delightful line drawings by Alice B. Preston. (2/1) $2.00

Brown, Elinor THE LITTLE STORY BOOK Oxford

Good bedtime material, with short short stories (one page each with charm-full page illustrations by Grace Norcross accompanying each story). Everyday events about little boys and little girls and their adventures in the park, playing with squirrels, with rabbits, visiting the zoo, helping at home and so on. Format and content would indicate primer value, but vocabulary, size of type and page layout are too difficult for first readers. Better as reading aloud material for four to six. (2/29) $1.50

*FIRST STEPS IN READING - Story Books*

Johnson, Margaret S. & Helen Lossing THE SMALLEST PUPPY Harcourt, Brace

Bena was an Eskimo sled dog and the smallestof the litter, so they tried to make a house dog of him, and he was a dismal failure. When he was sent back to Alaska, he proved to be the smartest leader of the bunch. These are nice books, with no pretense of literary quality, and the pictures, where they concern animals, are excellent. I could wish that humans would be omitted. Factual background good. (2/29) $1.75

*FIRST STEPS IN READING - Fact Books*

Danton, Jane THE LIFE STORY OF BABY SANDY Rand, McNally

BABY SANDY COLORING BOOK

Hollywood's youngest star, in a first person life story, illustrated with lots of photographs. Can't see that anything is gained by use of the first person, but the children who want the book aren't likely to be over-critical. The coloring book which is issued at the same time can be sold as a toy book. Merchandise value $ .10 each.

*STORY BOOKS FOR THE* 9 - 12's

Anderson, Bernice G. INDIAN SLEEP MAN TALES Caxton

This is authentic legendary and folk material of the Otoe tribe, and the stories are well told, with the rhythmic quality of the Indian story teller. The stories themselves are the How and Why type, with the characters creatures of the wild, physical manifestations, things in nature, for the most part, but with enough Indian tribal customs (the Tow-wa and the peace pipe) to build a good sense of background, the history and the characteristics of the tribe. The connecting links, with the children at bed-time demanding the stories, is unoriginal and amateurish. Line illustrations. $2.00

Hogner, Dorothy Childs DON'T BLAME THE PUFFINS Oxford

A story about fisherman's luck, set against the Gaspé section, and of how one fisherman blamed the gulls and the puffins for his bad luck, and then discovered that the weather and the tides were responsible. It is an amusing story (though hardly a convincing one), and the pictures are delightful, though the fishermen look too slicked up for verity. The appearance of the book suggests younger readers than the text. Illustrated by Nils Hogner, in postery colors and black and white. (2/29) $1.25

Simon, Charlie May THE FARAWAY TRAIL Dutton

* Another good story from a dependable author, this time an authentic picture of frontier life in Arkansas a century and more ago. There is enough story interest to carry the factual content, with house raising, corn husking, all the routine activities of pioneer life, and with glimpses of the beginnings of Little Rock. The children of the Blair family seem very real. Covered wagon and frontier material (this combines the two) has a reliable place, particularly in western shops. Illustrated. $2.00

Sperry, Armstrong CALL IT COURAGE Macmillan

** A Polynesian Robinson Crusoe story, and a good one, plus beautiful format and pictures (by the author) that have a Rockwell Kent quality,- this should make this an easy book to sell. Through the story, the reader learns much of the ways of primitive people, of how one boy, up against the necessity to provide himself with food and shelter, uses the things that nature offers. (2/13) $1.75

Tharp, Louise Hall LORDS AND GENTLEMEN Crowell

For those who don't know it (and that will be a large proportion of the possible market) the title refers to one of the companies responsible for colonization in the new country. The story starts in England, then transfers to Boston and the Connecticut settlements, as an English lad, determined on finding his fortune in the new world, gets passage on a ship and comes to America. Good adventure, with a motivation of plot which too many historical stories seem to lack. Illustrated in line. (2/14) $2.00

## *FACT BOOKS FOR THE 9- 12's*

Cumming, Primrose BEN-*The Story of a Carthorse* Dutton

With fine photographs (by Harold Burdekin) and readable text, the story is told of a brewery carthorse, retired to a farm, and of how he adapted himself to the rural life, and eventually won a red ribbon for his owner in a ploughing contest. Sell as both a horse story - authentic - and the round of life on a farm. $1.50

Goslin, Ryllis & Omar DEMOCRACY Harcourt, Brace

* I've placed this for 9 to 12 year olds, but it could be judiciously used in schools with younger children and with older children. The basic principles of democracy are defined in terms of common experience:- freedom, self government, responsibility, recognition of differences of opinion, tolerance, patience, equality of opportunity, and so forth. The authors are well known through their graphic presentations of economic facts, and they have done a job that needed to be done, in this book. (2/22) $1.50

Rand McNally THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HANDBOOK Rand McNally

Pocket book for beginning stamp collectors, comprehensive, compact, with a good glossary and excellent reference material. $ .10

## *FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - Fiction*

Adams, James D. CAP'N EZRA, PRIVATEER Harcourt, Brace

The author of *Skinny* has written a book that is better in substance and setting, but less good from the point of view of characterization. The New Hampshire country lads who get into hot water on a visit to Boston, and who duck trouble by going to Newburyport and enlisting as shipbuilders and later as hands on a privateer,

have a good build up but never become more than cardboard figures. The study of the period and the War of 1812 from the deck of a privateer, makes good reading and there is inadequate material on this period, so the book will make a place for itself. (2/22) $2.00

Atwater, Montgomery M. GOVERNMENT HUNTER Macmillan

* These "G-men of the wilderness", who do real service in tracking down beasts that have run amuck, are new figures in fiction. This adventure story, of an eastern lad who joins up with one of these government hunters, and who learns some of the hard facts of life from experience, is a good yarn. Illustrated. (2/13) $1.50

Barne, Kitty FAMILY FOOTLIGHTS Dodd, Mead

The author of *She Shall Have Music* has written another good family story, with a dramatic, rather than a musical background (though there is music, too). She spins a good tale, and manages to get in plenty of sound factual information about production which should prove helpful to young aspirants to the dramatic arts. The attractive pencil sketches by Ruth Gervis are a great asset to the book. $2.00

Ellsberg, Com. Edward TREASURE BELOW Dodd, Mead

* A wildly exciting and tense adventure story, written by the man who knows more about submarines and diving and about how to tell about them than anyone else. This is the story of a successful treasure hunt, that ended with the submarine at the bottom of the sea, some of the mutinied crew dead, and the other men held prisoners, with no air. This tells of their escape, of other dangers and adventures that followed, and of how, eventually, the treasure was secured. Authentic scientifically. (2/7) $2.00

Strong, Paschal N. WINGS OVER WONDER ISLAND Little, Brown

Mark Venture makes the grade at Cosmos Tech, a school where inventive boys can work out their problems. There's good adventure plus aviation aspects when Mark and Ray are involved in balking an attempt to put over some crooked business. Good blend of science, adventure, with young heroes working for ideals rather than profit. (3/6) $2.00

Wadsworth, Leda MYSTERY OFF PIRATE'S POINT Farrar & Rinehart

This mystery yarn has an Oregon coast background. Twins, different in temperament and interests, work out their own problems of their future work, when one of them, the dominant one, is taken forcibly out of the active picture by a broken leg, and the other one has to take responsibility for the first time. Adventure story, with good characterization. (2/19) $2.00

*FOR THE 12 to 15 YEAR OLDS - Non-fiction*

Gaer, Joseph FAIR AND WARMER Harcourt, Brace

There is good substance in this book, and all in all, it is as good a general book about the weather as I know, and should have an adult sale, in a limited field, as well. There is the historical background, the superstitions, the beginnings of scientific methods, the inventions, and the development of the U. S. Weather Bureau, with its far reaching activities and values. Then the author goes into the basic elements of amateur weather forecasting. He discusses the meaning of charts, terms, instruments. Schools, camps, reference libraries - specialized market. Indexed. (2/8) $1.25

Gaer, Joseph MEN AND TREES Harcourt, Brace

A second volume in the National Problems Series (see *Fair and Warmer*). This time the subject is conservation of our forests, the significance of trees in our national life, the developments of the U. S. Forest Service. The forest patrol; the uses of wood; the value of trees in preventing erosion, floods, drought; the enemies of trees - and what the government is doing on all these fronts. Emphasis on the necessity of public education (in which cause this book is a step forward). Both titles illustrated with photographs. (2/8) $1.25

*FIFTEEN AND UP - Non-fiction*

Irwin, David with Reck, Franklin M. ONE MAN AGAINST THE NORTH Crowell

An actual record of the longest Arctic trip taken by one man - and this a 21 year old youth, who went into Eskimo country, covered 3,000 miles by dog sled-often with depleted team and inadequate food, lived with Eskimos and ate their food. The account is detailed enough to satisfy the insatiable curiosity of some people for data on the subject, but its very meticulousness of detail will circumscribe the market, limiting it to those especially interested in the subject. Illustrated. (2/28) $2.00

*ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS - Fiction*

Baird, Irene WASTE HERITAGE: *A Novel of Western Canada* Random House

This is no book for sissies, but it won't hurt mature boys and girls to know something of the wasted generation growing up to a civilization that thrusts them aside. This is the story of the "lost boys" of Canada, through three weeks in the lives of two youths, one has come in "on the rods", the other barely escapes with his life after a run-in with the police. It is a story of violence and terror, of a strike, of two lost lives. Plenty of young people are reading Steinbeck. They can take it. (For full report see page 551). $2.50

Brophy, John GENTLEMEN OF STRATFORD Harper

A fictional reconstruction of the life of Shakespeare, and good reading. There is an authentic note in the details of time and place and customs and contemporaries, and the liberties taken with the facts (often uncertain in themselves) are justifiable. Shakespeare emerges as a vital and convincing figure. (For full report see page 550). (~~3/1~~) $2.50

Genevoix, Maurice 4/4 THE LAST HUNT Random House

This for the *Bambi* market. There's an eerie quality in the story of the life of the great stag, and of the place he played in the lives of two hunters, the Killer and the Man. The forest background, the life of the herd, the remoteness that was Red's distinction, create a different impression from the philosophical content of *Bambi*. (For full report see page 583). (2/29) $2.50

Manning-Sanders, Ruth LUKE'S CIRCUS Little, Brown

The open road in England, small travelling circus and a story revolving around a circus-struck small boy and how he grew up in the life he loved - well done and good entertainment. (For full report see page 517) $2.50

## *ADULT BOOKS FOR OLDER BOYS AND GIRLS - Non-fiction*

Barnes Dollar Sports Library

Don't overlook Putnam & Parkinson *Skating;* Prager-*Skiing* from the *Book of Winter Sports*, and Gallagher, *Wrestling*. (See page 560) Each $1.00

Cummings, Henry I. TENNIS AS A HOBBY Harper

Good handbook:- equipment, technique, grip, serve, pointers on play, requirements of a good court, etc. (See page 575) (2/2) ~~$1.75~~ 1.50

Bradford, William & *Others* HOMES IN THE WILDERNESS Wm. R. Scott

Simple source material in almost its original form, exceedingly well done. Remember the publisher's *Log of Columbus* last year? This supplies a simple and unvarnished record of the struggles of the Mayflower voyagers to make new homes in the wilderness, with plenty of incident to hold the attention of all ages. Attractive format, tinted stock, line drawings. (See page 529) $2.00

Colvan, E. B. FACE THE FOOTLIGHTS Whittlesey

*Practical Guide to Acting* - based on the theory that acting can be learned. He goes into such detailed matters as health, financial situation, imagination, self-criticism, carriage, working with people, instructions on stage locations, crosses, entrances and exits, posture and motion, diction, studying a part, makeup, etc. Excellent for teachers, coaches, Little Theatre groups, etc. (See page 575) (2/5) $3.00

Hahn, Mannel SO YOU'RE COLLECTING STAMPS Dodd, Mead

In straightforward manner, the author covers the salient points every collector should know, and leaves such details as rarities, values and so on to the stamp catalogues. Glossary of terms, classification of stamps, all sorts of basic information about processes of collecting, sources of information, how to prepare, mount and protect stamps, and so on. (See page 25) (2/7) $2.50

Neill, Humphrey B. 48 MILLION HORSES Lippincott

Story of electricity, its sources and its application and its future, done very simply for the uninitiated who wants to know where electricity comes from, how power is converted into usable form, how it is applied in industry, commerce, agriculture, medicine, entertainment, transportation, etc. Then there are sidelights on such subjects as lightning, bulbs for night driving, and so on. The sections dealing with future developments suggest the demonstrations at the World's Fair. (See page 13) (2/7) $2.50

Vernon, Arthur THE HISTORY AND ROMANCE OF THE HORSE Waverly House

From the horse of the dawn of history, through the horse of mythology and ancient history, to the present, this is the most thorough and comprehensive volume I have seen. Every phase is included, - domestication, use in fighting and sport and chivalry, the practical uses, the glamor aspects, the working horse, the horse of turf and track. Elaborately illustrated. (See page 560) $3.75